

Monument to Love

A film by Jacky Comforty



Created and Produced by Jacky Comforty; Inspired by: Ika & Bitush Comforty

Research and Script: Jacky Comforty & Martha Aladjem Bloomfield

Music: Stuart Rosenberg; Executive Producer: Robert Arnove

Produced by Comforty Media Concepts

Funded in part by a grant from The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Monument to Love features a journey Jacky Comforty took with his mother, Ika Comforty Ovadia, for over 25 years to research, document, and uncover the narrative of the Jewish people during the Holocaust in Bulgaria. As the journey progressed, Ika's personal story unfolded. She shared memories and read passages from her diary which revealed her observations, thoughts and feelings, as a young woman, facing a broken world, plunging into war. Kind acts of friendship she experienced contrast the cruel times and the dangers she and others escaped. Ika's story is an anti-war manifesto, confronting totalitarianism and supremacy, and erecting a monument to love.



“Love is the greatest force in the world. It is stronger than religion, It is stronger than anything. If you love, you do. If you do not love, nothing will happen. With love, children are raised, with love, a bond is formed between two people. With love, we become parents to children. With love, we become teachers and students. With love, children are raised, with love, a bond is formed between two people. When you love something, you work all your life and give. You do not give? There is no life, no beauty. Without love, nothing happens. Period.”

- Ika Comforty Ovadia



Some thirty-five years ago, I became interested in Bulgarian Jews, and the Holocaust. At that time, I was a young scriptwriter and director of comedy. I was close with my parents who were Bulgarian Jewish immigrants in Israel and supported my artistic aspirations. They once told me that, “There is one story you must tell, which is how we were saved during the Holocaust.” I had never heard the story before and at the time recorded this conversation on an audio-cassette tape.

The conversation with my parents began the process of learning, researching, interviewing and creating multiple documentation projects about the Holocaust and its effect all over Europe, and particularly in Bulgaria. Over the years, I conducted about 250 oral histories which I used to produce four full-length documentaries and a dozen short movies. “Monument to Love ” is a result of 35 years of collection and documentation. The richness of the story and the depth of the work are clearly visible in the film.

When I started to explore our heritage, the common notion was that there was no Holocaust in Bulgaria and that our people were saved. I interviewed hundreds of people, documented places and events, and collected archival films and photos. The story became more complex, and sometimes darker. I set out to document how they were saved. Yet, the stories people told were of resilience, resistance and survival and of friendships and kindness among common people, that were stronger than fascism, propaganda and hatred.

- Jacky Comforty, Director

For more information:

<https://the-learning-project.org/blog/monument-to-love>

Opening statements from Ika:

“Love is the greatest force in the world. It is stronger than religion, It is stronger than anything. If you love, you do. If you do not love, nothing will happen. With love, children are raised, with love, a bond is formed between two people. With love, we become parents to children. With love, we become teachers and students. With love, children are raised, with love, a bond is formed between two people. When you love something, you work all your life and give. You do not give? There is no life, no beauty. Without love, nothing happens. Period.”

Director’s Statement

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My mom was very supportive and active from the start. She collected photos and took notes for me, researched bibliography and documents, and provided a personal context. She joined me on two trips to Bulgaria in 1990 and in 1999. At first, I wanted to hear mostly about historical events. Her role as witness was marginal. Over the years we kept exploring other aspects of her story and our mutual interest in the education of young children.

At some late stage of our journey she even found her lost diary that provided a timely perspective. It took 30 years to film and tell this story. Through sharing voices and memories of those who survived the times, we construct a panorama of personal history, thoughts and diary entries, in response to the events of the time. We always were close, but the process of learning and our dialogue throughout the journey brought us closer, and helped us capture the essence of the story orally and the passing it on.

About the filmmaker:

Jacky Comforty is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose groundbreaking films have been shot in the United States, Germany, Israel, and Bulgaria. With decades of experience in independent film production focusing on both models of inclusive education and Holocaust Studies, he has developed a multidisciplinary, multicultural, and multilingual approach to collecting oral histories and creating meaningful projects, placing emphasis on nonintrusive, non-scripted methodologies for documentation.

His credits include: *Balkan Jazz* (2013), *The Optimists* (2001), *In the Shadow of Memory* (1998), and *Through a Glass, Lightly* (1996). Among numerous other distinctions, Comforty has received the Berlin Festival Peace Prize, the Jerusalem Film Festival's Jewish Experience Award, a CINE Golden Eagle award, the American Association of Museums MUSE award, and the Chicago International Gold Hugo Award.

Awards and Grants

- 2021 Grant from the Claims Conference for Monument for Love.
- 2019 Research grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture for Monument to Love.
- 2016 Production grant from the Smithville Foundation for The Quest for Best
- 2016 Production grant from the Starseed foundation for www.earlychildhoodmedia.com
- 2015 Initial grant from the Starseed foundation for www.earlychildhoodmedia.com
- 2015 Preservation grant by the Eugene & Emily Grant Family Foundation for The Comforty Archives .
- 2002 Artist-in-Residence in Berlin, DAAD fellowship.
- 2002 Communicator Award, In the Shadow of Memory.
- 2001 Peace Prize, Honorable Mention at the International Forum of New Cinema Berlin International Film Festival, The Optimists.
- 2001 CINE Golden Eagle, The Optimists.
- 2001 Best Documentary, Hope and Dreams Film Festival, The Optimists.
- 2000, First Prize, Jerusalem Film Festival, The Jewish Experience, The Optimists. 1999 Karlovy Vary film Festival, In the Shadow of Memory.
- 1998 CINE Golden Eagle, In the Shadow of Memory.
- 1998 Fellowship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 1998 Finalist, Jerusalem Film Festival, In the Shadow of Memory.
- 1997 CINE Golden Eagle, Through A Glass, Lightly.
- 1997 Gold Hugo, (Chicago International), Step by Step: Heather's Story.
- 1997 Bronze Apple, National Educational Media, Through A Glass, Lightly.
- 1996 Cultural Fund Grant, Evanston Arts Council
- 1995 First Prize, Arts: Artists, AAM Muse Awards, Through A Glass, Lightly.
- 1994 Production Grant, Illinois Humanities Council
- 1993 Media Award, Illinois-TASH for The Inclusion Series.
- 1993 Major Production Grant, Maurice Amado Foundation, The Optimists.

Filmography

2023 Monument to Love

A documentary in-progress about my mother's survival story in Bulgaria during the Holocaust.

2017 Multiple Intelligences and Hundred Languages

An educational documentary about Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences and the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education

2016-17 earlychildhoodmedia.org

A new video documentation resource of early childhood education in Bloomington Indiana, to support training and learning for the global early childhood education community. The site has over 500 video clips and movies, and interviews.

2015 edu-media-bg.com

A new video resource to support training and learning for the early childhood education community in Bulgaria. The site has over 300 video clips and movies, articles, lectures and interviews.

2014 Inclusionseries.org

A new video resource to support training and learning about a variety of educational and human issues. The site has some 700 video clips.

2013 BALKAN JAZZ. Comforty Media Concepts

A documentary about two musician brothers and their friends, and how music, war, and luck and survival shaped their lives.

2011 EDUCATORS' TOOLBOX. Sofia University and Comforty Media Concepts.

Workshop with K-12 teachers about media literacy and classroom usage of media for education, communication, and documentation.

2010 THE FUTURE IS NOW. Tufts University, Sofia University, and Comforty Media Concepts.

Strategic plan for an Early Childhood Development Center in Sofia, Bulgaria, and a major documentation and research project focused on Best Practices in early childhood education in the United States and in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

2010 TEACHER STEREOTYPES. Sofia University department of continuous Education.

A new media projects comprised of interviews with teachers, directors, parents, students, and experts about teaching and being a teacher.

2009 MISIKUN LESIKUY. Comforty Media Concepts, Ashalim JDC Israel.

A two-year documentary project about an inclusion program of toddlers with special needs in a day care center in Ashkelon, Israel.

2008 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: THE VARNA EXPERIENCE. Comforty Media Concepts.

An educational documentary about inclusive education of all children into school and community. For an International Educational Conference organized by the City of Varna, Bulgaria, October 2008.

2008 *THIS IS MY BODY* and *TESTIMONY*. **Comforty Media Concepts, Ashalim JDC Israel.**

Two videos about people with disabilities who were victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

2007 *PENKA'S SCHOOL OF LOVE*. **Comforty Media Concepts.**

A short educational documentary about a pioneer of early childhood education in Bulgaria. For the Fourth International Conference on Children and Adults, Adults and Children" organized by the Elisabeth Clarke & Penka Kassabova Association, Sofia, Bulgaria.

2005 *FRIENDSHIP*. **Comforty Media Concepts/Inclusion Press International.**

Educational documentary about the importance of friendship in the inclusion of children into community, society and school.

2001 *THE OPTIMISTS*. **Comforty Media Concepts/The Chambon Foundation.**

Independent documentary about the rescue of Bulgarian Jewry from the Holocaust. **Peace Prize winner at the Berlin International Film Festival** and **First Prize for "Documenting the Jewish Experience," the Jerusalem International Film Festival 2000.**

2000 *INCLUSION HIGH*. **Comforty Media Concepts/Chicago Public Schools.** Documentary about the inclusion of students from 60 nations one Chicago high school.

1998 *IN THE SHADOW OF MEMORY*. **Comforty Media Concepts/The Collected Image.**

A documentary about living in the aftermath of Lidice, the Catholic Czech town destroyed by the Nazis during World War II for alleged Resistance collaborations. Funding made possible by Chambon Foundation. **CINE Golden Eagle, 1998. Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Jerusalem International Film Festival, Communicator Award, Bronze award.**

1996 *THROUGH A GLASS, LIGHTLY: THE ARTISTS COMMENT ON RECLAMATION AND TRANSFORMATION*. **Terra Museum of American Art, Chicago, IL.**

About the lives and work of three outsider-artists who collect what others discard, turn it into sculpture and paintings, and, through art, teach inner city youth to appreciate and care for their surroundings.

1997 CINE Golden Eagle; 1995 First Prize, Arts: Artists Category, American Association of Museums Muse Awards; 1995 Bronze Apple, NEMN.

1995 *UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.*

54 hours of oral histories conducted with Bulgarian Jews and 58 photos from the *Comforty Collection* of over 5,000 photos for permanent archiving and future use in museum exhibitions.

1995 *ST. LOUIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM .*

30 Hour oral history project. Historical research, archival photo, and film research. Five videos and eight audio programs and their integration into this museum dedicated to Holocaust education.

1992 *THE FULL CIRCLE: Excerpts from Survivors' Stories.*

Video programs integrated into the permanent exhibit of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and

Museum. Excerpts from oral histories with individuals who benefited from Hoover's famine relief efforts during the two World Wars, interwoven with archival film footage and photographs.

1991-1997 *THE INCLUSION SERIES. Gold Hugo (Chicago International Film Festival), 1993 Media Award for Contributions to People with Severe Disabilities granted by Illinois-TASH* (The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps, a leading, nation-wide advocacy organization.), for *The Inclusion Series*.

Ten part best-selling series, distributed to educational institutions internationally by Comforty Media Concepts.

Inclusion Series: Best-Selling Programs

1996 *Step by Step: Heather's Story*. 65-minute documentary video for parents and educators about inclusion over time. This video provides a two-year, longitudinal look at a little girl with Down Syndrome who progresses from special education classroom to neighborhood school. **1997 Gold Hugo.**

1993 *Families, Friends, Futures*. 23-minute documentary video for general audiences about the need for inclusion of young people with disabilities into both school and community.

1992 *Inclusion: Issues for Educators*. 20-minute documentary video addressing inclusion from the perspective of teachers and administrators.

1991 *Choices*. 30-minute documentary video profiling four individuals with disabilities and their inclusion into regular classrooms.

Publications:

- **Humanistic approach to working with children with special educational needs** / an example of a day care center in the town of Ashkelon, Israel / for Conference on Early Childhood Education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2009. With Associate Professor Rayna Zaharieva, PhD.
- **Inclusion of children with special educational needs in US schools**, the "Management of secondary education" issue 5, 2008, pp. 67-74. With Associate Professor Rayna Zaharieva, PhD.
- **Issues concerning teachers about inclusion of children with special educational needs in American schools**, s.258-263. For the international conference "Humanity and pragmatism in education for the XXI Century", Varna, 2007. With Associate Professor Rayna Zaharieva, PhD
- **Including children with special educational needs – the experience in the American schools**. Online magazine "E-learning", June 2006/2007g., P 27-44. With Associate Professor Rayna Zaharieva, PhD.
- **MEDIA EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY** – manual for teachers on understanding media critically and using new and old media in the classroom.
- [The Stolen Narrative of the Bulgarian Jews and the Holocaust](#) - 2021 Rowman & Littlefield. A book summing up 30 years of research and documentation, with Martha Aladjem Bloomfield.

Monument to Love

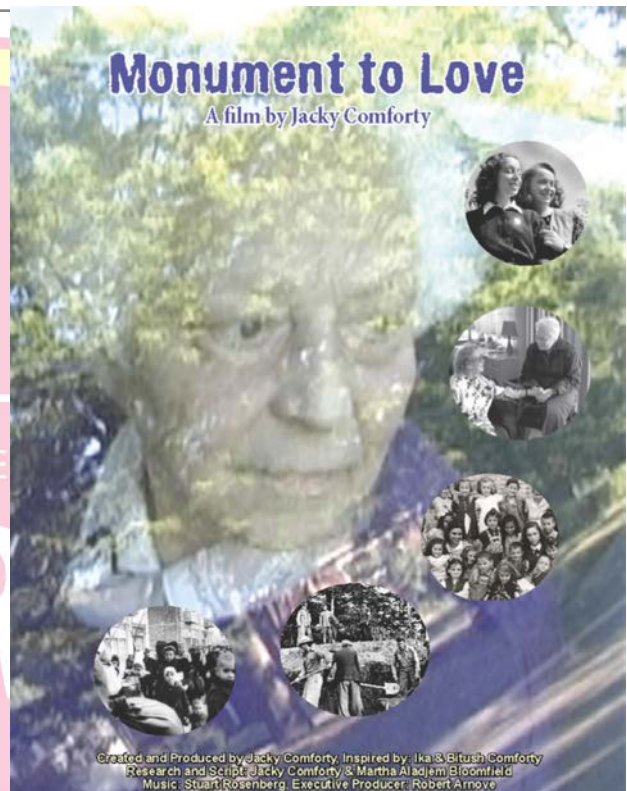
Critical Analysis

★★★★★

Directed by **Jacob Comforty**

Written by **Jacob Comforty & Martha Aladjem Bloomfield**

Produced by **Jacky Comforty & Robert Arno**



"Monument to Love," a documentary film directed and written by Jacob Comforty and co-written by Martha Aladjem Bloomfield, stands as a testament to the power of personal narratives in preserving history, fostering resilience, and building bridges between generations. With an exhaustive journey spanning over 35 years, Jacob Comforty explores the Holocaust in Bulgaria through the lens of his mother, Ika Comforty Ovadia, creating a poignant and deeply moving documentary that transcends time and borders. The film unfolds as a layered narrative, weaving together Ika's personal journey during the Holocaust with the broader historical context.

Jacob Comforty skillfully combines oral histories, archival footage, and heartfelt conversations with his mother to construct a profound tapestry of resilience, friendship, and the enduring human spirit. The decision to include Ika's diary entries adds an intimate layer to the storytelling, offering viewers a direct glimpse into the emotions and thoughts of a young woman navigating the complexities of a broken world.

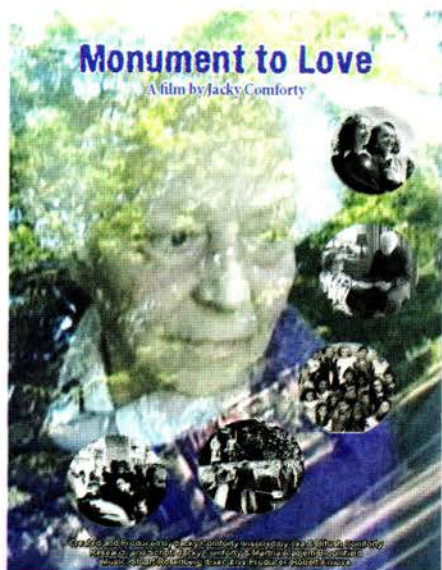
The director's extensive experience in independent film production, particularly in Holocaust Studies, is evident in the meticulous craftsmanship of "Monument to Love." Comforty's multidisciplinary and multicultural approach ensures that the film captures not only the historical events but also the nuanced emotions and interpersonal connections that define the human experience during times of adversity. At the heart of the documentary is the theme of love as a force that transcends religious, cultural, and historical boundaries.

Ika's opening statement, "Love is the greatest force in the world," serves as a guiding principle throughout the film. The emphasis on love becomes a lens through which the stories of resilience, resistance, and survival unfold. It becomes the driving force that binds people together and allows them to endure the darkest chapters of history. The film's title, "Monument to Love," serves as a metaphorical structure erected not in stone but in the collective memories and shared narratives of those who lived through the Holocaust. Through the lens of Ika's journey, Comforty constructs a powerful anti-war manifesto, challenging totalitarianism and supremacy. The documentary becomes a testament to the enduring power of love in overcoming hatred and darkness.

The choice of shooting formats, including 16 mm, Beta SP, Mini DV, and Digital, contributes to the film's visual richness. The inclusion of black and white footage adds a nostalgic and historical dimension, while the use of color enhances the emotional depth of the contemporary interviews. The multiple languages used (Bulgarian, English, German, and Hebrew) reflects the multicultural nature of the narrative, emphasizing the universality of the human experience. "Monument to Love" is not just a documentary; it is a heartfelt exploration of heritage, humanity, and the enduring lessons of history.

Jacob Comforty, along with Martha Aladjem Bloomfield, has crafted a film that resonates beyond the screen, inviting audiences to reflect on the transformative power of love, the importance of preserving personal narratives, and the collective responsibility to ensure that the stories of resilience are passed on to future generations. In doing so, they have created a cinematic monument that stands as a testament to the indomitable human spirit.

The Documentary 'Monument to Love' How Bulgarian Jews Escaped the Holocaust



by Elizabeth Ellis

For Bloomingtonian Jacky Comforty, the painstaking documentation of Holocaust history in Bulgaria has been a labor of love for the last 35 years.

Comforty is best known for *The Optimists*, a 2001 film documenting the escape of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from deportation. His latest documentary, *Monument to Love*, is the first of a trilogy that will tell the survivors' full story—as well as the tragedy of 13,000 who were deported. Topics explored include dehumanization, industrialization of death, the power of community, and the manipulative role of propaganda.

Monument to Love is a journey taken with Comforty's mother, Ika Comforty Ovadia, who died in 2011. Ovadia kept a diary when she was 19 in 1939 that proves to be a treasure trove of information that she reads from over the course of the film, sharing her impressions of the war coming, Hitler's rise to power, and reflections on the value of every human being despite cultural differences or disabilities. "I always felt [*The Optimists*] didn't tell the full story—almost like a highlight film," shares Comforty, who is also founder of The Learning Project, which documents children with disabilities in real-life situations.

"Through all these connections I was able to tell her story and summed up, more or less, the female experience of the war in Bulgaria," says Comforty. "My dilemma was how not to make it a monument to my mom by an admiring son."

Monument to Love premiered in May 2023 at Tel Aviv Cinematheque in Israel during an international conference Comforty organized entitled "Persecution and Collaboration, Rescue and Survival: New Perspectives Regarding Bulgaria and the Holocaust 80 Years Later." The film has since garnered more than 50 awards at international film festivals.

Comforty says that while most of the Jewish population in Bulgaria survived, it was "despite the interest of the government to hand them over for deportation." Because the Jews were so well integrated into Bulgarian society, they were able to mobilize personal relationships for protection.

"There were people designated to be a connection to this person or another person if something were to happen," says Comforty. "It was those friendships that stood in the way of deporting the Jews because so many different people had close friends who believed they shouldn't be persecuted for being who they are."

Visit the-learning-project.org for more information. ✨



(top) Comforty's latest documentary, *Monument to Love*, is the first in a trilogy that will tell the stories of Jewish Bulgarian Holocaust survivors, as well as the tragedy of 13,000 who were deported; (above) a group of teachers that Comforty's mother, Ika Comforty Ovadia, trained after they were deported to a Ghetto in the provincial city of Pleven in 1943. Ovadia is in the bottom row, second from the left. *Courtesy photos*



In addition to being a filmmaker, Jacky Comforty is also founder of The Learning Project, a not-for-profit organization that creates educational programs about acts of humanity, rescue, tolerance, and acceptance of minorities or disadvantaged persons. Photo by Martin Boling



(above, l-r) Ika Comforty Ovadia and her sister, Vicky, in 1943; (below) Ovadia kept a diary when she was 19 in 1939 that includes her impressions of the war coming, Hitler's rise to power, and reflections on the value of all human beings despite cultural differences.



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В края на месец декември 2023 г. научихме, че за най-добър документален филм на Международния филмов фестивал Zeev в Париж е избран филмът „Паметник на любовта“ на сценариста и режисьора Джеки Комфорти, който заедно със сценаристката Марта Аладжем Блушфийлд са спечелили и сертификата за отлични постижения на наградата за сценарий. През 2023 година „Паметник на любовта“ участва в няколко други фестивали и конкурси. В началото на месец декември той беше включен в официалната селекция на Международните филмови награди на Източна Европа (EEMA) – месечен и годишен филмов конкурс с публична прожекция, който се провежда в Измир всеки месец.

В края на месец декември работни фрагменти от бъдещия филм ни даваха възможност да се запознаем по време на представянето и на срещата с Джеки Комфорти в Еврейския културен дом при гостуването му в края на май 2022 г. (виж „Еврейски вести“, бр. 11 - 2022).

„ПАМЕТНИК НА ЛЮБОВТА“ е деветдесет минути документален филм за продължителното над 36 години пътуване на автора с майка му Ика Комфорти. Оказва, освен това на проучването, документалното и разказването на разказа за живота на времето по време на Холокоста в България. Това е трогателен и дълбоко вълнуващ документален филм, който надхвърля времето и границите. Действието се разгръща като многослоен разказ, преливайки личната история с по-широк исторически контекст. По време на пътуването Ика разкрива



Джеки Комфорти с мощен антивоенен манифест срещу насилието

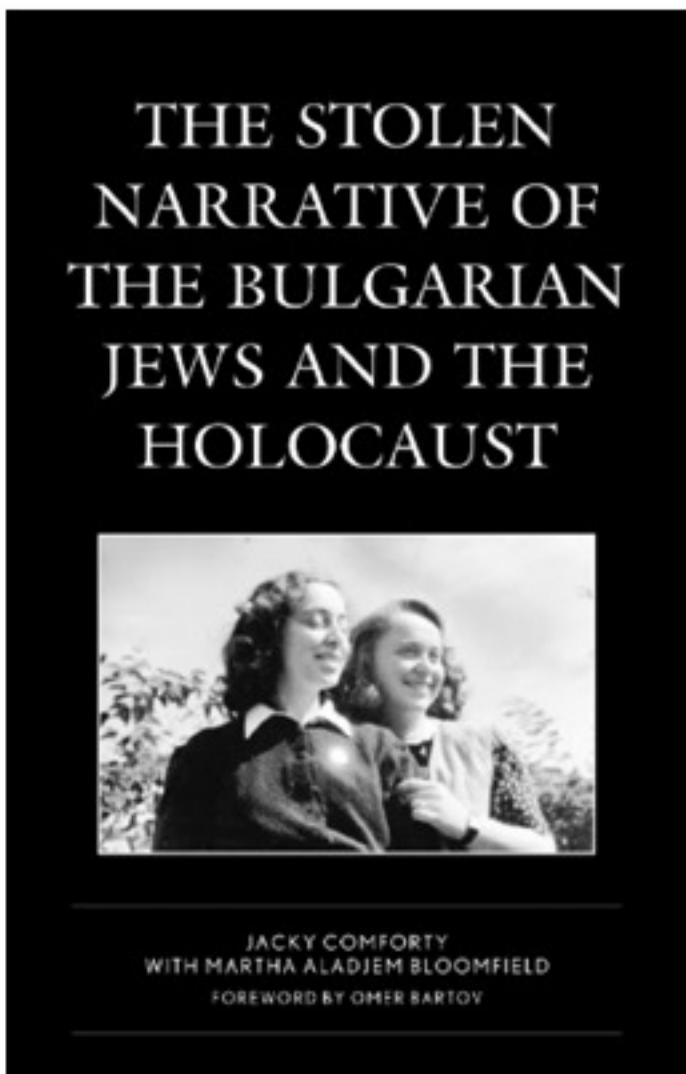


изходство на ират проява в прецизната изработка на „Паметник на любовта“. Мултидисциплинарният и мултикултурен подход на Комфорти гарантира, че филмът улавя не само историческите събития, но и колективните емоции и междупличностните връзки, които определят човешкия опит по време на бедствия. В основата на документалния филм е темата за любовта като сила, която надхвърля религиозна, културна и историческа граница. Началното изказване на Ика, че „Любовта е най-великата сила на света“, служи като водещ принцип в развитието на целия филм. Акцентът върху любовта се превръща в окулар, през който преминават историите за устойчивост, съпротива и социална вяло. Тя се превръща в движещата сила, която обединява хората и им позволява да преживяват най-тежките периоди от историята. Заглавието на филма „Паметник на любовта“ служи като метафорична структура, изградена от колективните сюжети и споделяните разкази за онези, които са живели през Холокоста. През обекта на пътуването на Ика Джеки Комфорти изражда мощен антивоенен манифест. Документалният филм се превръща в свидетелство за тежката сила на любовта в преодоля-

ването на омразата, насилието и тъмнината.

Изборът на формат за записване, включително 16 mm, Beta SP, Mini DV и Digital, допринася за визуалното богатство на филма. Включването на черно-бели кадри добавя емоционално и историческо измерение, докато цветните кадри засилват емоционалната дълбочина на съвременните интервюта. Използваните множество езици (български, английски, ивритски и иврит) отразяват мултикултурния характер на разказа, подчертавайки универсалността на човешкия опит. „Паметник на любовта“ не е просто документален филм. Това е проучвателно изследване на насилието, човечеството и трайните уроци на историята. Джеки Комфорти, заедно със сценаристката Марта Аладжем Блушфийлд са създали филм, който отеква отвъд екрана, приканвайки публиката да разширява върху трансформиращата сила на любовта, важноста на запазването на личните разкази и колективната отговорност да се гарантира, че историите за съпротива и достойнство се предават на бъдещите поколения. По този начин те създадоха кинематографичен паметник, свидетелство за несломлив човешки дух.

Такива са високите оценки



на критиците и организаторите на международния онлайн филмов фестивал Zeev в Париж. Той предоставя платформа за изява на режисьори и професионалисти в индустрията от цял свят, които демонстрират творческо въображение при разказването на истории и технически умения, допринасящи за напредъка на кинематографичното изкуство.

Она квяме скоро да видим филма „Паметник на любовта“ и на български еcran. Ще бъде много добре, ако това стане едновременно с излизането от печат на книгата „Откраднатият разказ на българските евреи и Холокоста“, върху превода и предпечатната подготовка на която се работи сега.

Емил Бехар



филмът „Паметник на любовта“ и сърдечно поздравяваме неговия создател Джеки Комфорти. Не само защото той е дълбоко свързан с историята и настоящето на България и българските евреи, но и защото този филм се появява във времето, когато отбелязваме осемдесет годишнината от спасяването на българските евреи от депортация в нацистките лагерни и шертта и чрез неговото световна обществена възможност да научи по-убедително и въздействащо някои от истините за т. нар. „Български случай“. Филмът е и естествено свързан с публицитатата през 2022 г. в САЩ и във Джеки Комфорти и Марта Аладжем Блушфийлд „Откраднатият разказ на българските евреи и Холокоста“. С нея и с

своите сюжети и наблюдения, а включените записи от нейните две видеообсъждания характер на разказа, предлагайки на зрителите директен поглед върху емоциите и шоките на една влада жана, която се ориентира в сложността на един разбит по време на войната свят. Тя споделя за приятелства, които изживява в контраст с жестоките времена, и опасностите, които владата жана и близките ѝ са преживели. Джеки умело съчетава колективните разкази на майка си с други устни истории и архивни кадри, за да изгради многослоен разказ за устойчивост, приятелство и издръжлив човешки дух.

Богатият опит на режисьора в изследването на Холокоста и в независимото филмово про-

РЕГИОНАЛНА ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ НА ЕВРЕПЕТЕ "ШАЛОМ" - СЛИВЕН
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE JEWS "SHALOM" - SLIVEN

ПОКАНА

Управителният съвет на сдружение с нестопанска цел „Регионална организация на евреите „Шалом“ гр. Сливен, със седалище и адрес на управление: гр. Сливен, ул. „Неофит Бозовци“, 24-3, на основание чл. 22 и чл. 33 от Устава на РОЕ „Шалом“ гр. Сливен, свикваме годишно отчетно-изборно събрание на 29.02.2024 г. от 18:00 часа в ресторант „Пржека“ гр. Сливен, ул. „Дар Савукин“ 1, при следния дневен ред:

ДНЕВЕН РЕД:

- Отчетен доклад за дейността на Сдружението през 2023 година и доклад за дейността на Сдружението за периода 27.01.2023 до 29.01.2024 г.
- Отчетен доклад на Регионалната комисия на Сдружението за последната година и за мандата на комисията.
- Обсъждане и приемане на Годишния финансов отчет на Сдружението за 2023 година.
- Обсъждане и приемане на Бюджет за 2024 г.
- Обсъждане на настоящия Управителен съвет и Регионалната комисия от отговорност.
- Избор на нови ръководни органи съгласно чл.23 от Устава на РОЕ „Шалом“ Сливен както следва:
• Председател и Членове на УС
• Председател и членове на Регионалната комисия
- Промяна на адреса на управление на Регионална организация на евреите „Шалом“ - Сливен.
- Избор на делегат, който да представлява РОЕ „Шалом“ Сливен по време на Общото събрание на Организацията на евреите в България „Шалом“ за следващия мандатен период.
- Други.

При липса на кворум на основание чл. 23 от Устава на РОЕ „Шалом“ Сливен и чл. 27 от ЗОНПЗ събранията ще се провеждат следен ден с един час по-късно при същия дневен ред. Показват се всички членове лично или чрез упълномощен представител да присъстват на Общото годишно отчетно-изборно събрание на Сдружението. Писмените материали по дневен ред ще бъдат на разположение на членовете на Организацията на адреса на управление на дружеството от 17:00 до 19:00 часа всеки работен ден най-малко един месец преди датата на събранията и ще бъдат предоставени при поискване от всеки член или на лицето, което по закон го представлява или негов представител с изрично писмено пълномощие.

Управителен съвет на РОЕ „Шалом“ гр. Сливен
29.01.2024 г.

Press Images



The Ovadia family 1941, Ika and her sister Viki, Luna and Jacque Ovadia.



Viki Ovadia with the radio just before it was confiscated, 1941.



Ika Ovadia and Sara Alkalay, the Jewish students, who were admitted to the school for teachers affiliated with the American Kindergarten in Sofia, 1941.



Ika Ovadia Comforty revisiting Penka Kasabova, the director of the school for teachers, affiliated with the American Kindergarten in Sofia, 1990.



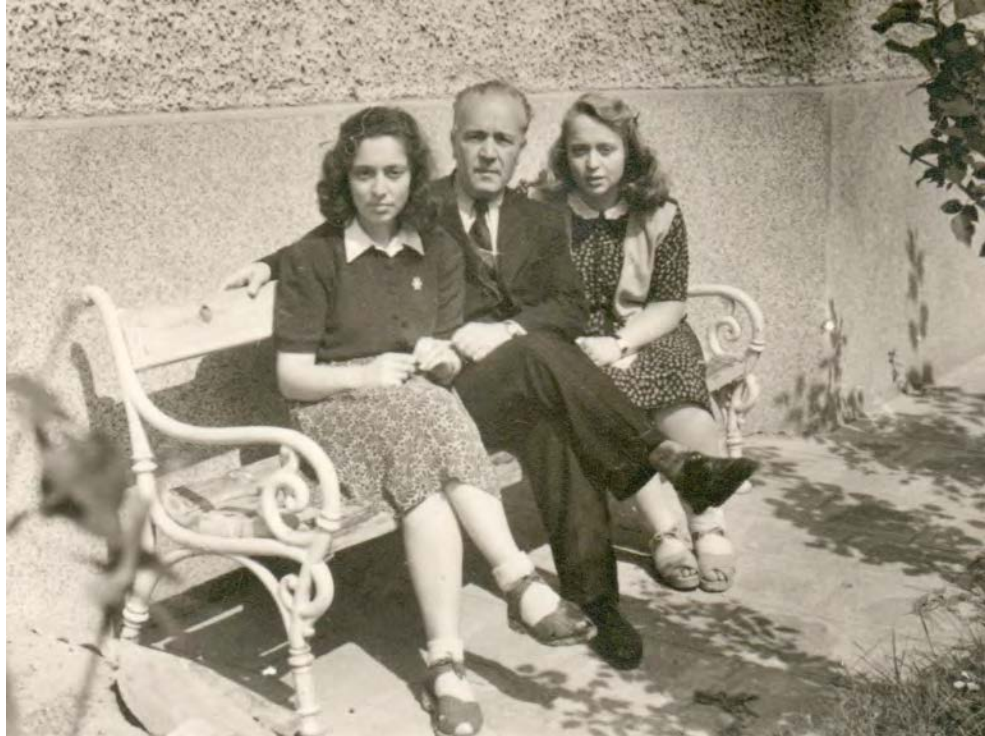
Ika and friends in the village of Boboshevo where she was sent to teach and was arrested for staying with the children after curfew in summer, 1942.



My father, Bitush Comforty, in a Labor camp in Belovo, 1942 (R) .



Ika and Viki Ovadia with the Jewish star shining in the sun, Pleven, 1943.



Ika, Jacque and Viki Ovadi in the yard of the house where they stayed in Pleven, 1943.



Ika Ovadia, with the Jewish star with a class of children she organized in the ghetto in Pleven where they had all been deported in summer 1943. In the top row from left is Julie Mory who shared her memories as a young girl.



Ika, Viki and three tenants in the house they shared in Pleven with Albert Vaena, Ika's partisan friend she knew from Sofia, September 1944.



Ika, going to visit her teacher's Alma Mater, the National College of Education. Evanston, Illinois, 2004.

Monument to Love Awards

Accolade Competition

2024 Winner Award Of Recognition Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Documentaries Without Borders Film Festival

2024 Winner Exceptional Merit Human Spirit Jacky Comforty

Universal Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Human Rights Documentary Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Florence Film Awards

2024 Winner Gold Award Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

New York Movie Awards

2024 Winner March Award Best Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty (producer) Robert Arnove (producer)

Hollywood Gold Awards

2024 Winner Gold Award Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

Beyond the Curve International Film Festival

2024 Winner February Award Best Short Documentary

Rome International Movie Awards

2024 Winner March Award Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Milan Gold Awards

2024 Winner February Gold Award Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

Hollywood Blvd Film Festival

2023 Winner Festival Award Best Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

Bright International Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Narrative Documentary Main Category Jacky Comforty

New Jersey Film Awards

2024 Winner January Award Best Feature Film Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner January Award Best Editing Jacky Comforty

Medusa Film Festival

2024 Winner Festival Award Best Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

Paris Film Awards

2024 Winner February Award Silver Award: Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

London Movie Awards

2024 Winner Gold Award Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

Red Moon Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

8 And HalFilm Awards

2024 Winner - February Best Documentary Feature

2024 Winner - February Best Educational Film

2024 Winner - February Best Human Rights Film

2024 Winner - Indie Filmmaker Hall of Fame Award: Best Indie Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner - Indie Filmmaker Hall of Fame Award Best Human Rights Documentary Jacky Comforty

EdiPlay International Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Multi Dimension Independent Film Festival

2023 Winner December Award Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Crown Point International Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Documentary Feature, February Feature Film Award Jacky Comforty

Golden Eyes

2024 Nominee Best Documentary Film Jacky Comforty

LensFame International Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Producer Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Madrid International Movie Awards

2024 Winner Best Documentary Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty

International Gold Awards

2024 Winner Gold Award: Producer Best Feature Documentary Jacky Comforty Robert Arnove

Frida Film Festival

2024 Winner Grand Prix of Italy in Venice Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Lily Indie Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Feature Film Documentary Jacky Comforty

Chicago Cinema Awards

2024 Winner Chicago Cinema Award Best Documentary - Feature Jacky Comforty

Artist's Choice Award

2024 Winner Artist's Choice Award Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Miami International Gold Awards

2024 Winner February Award Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Cineplay International Film Festival
2024 Winner Best Documentary Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

World Cinema Awards
2024 Winner Best Documentary Feature Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Humro Cinema
2024 Winner Festival Prize Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Stingray International Film Festival
2024 Winner Festival Award Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Elegant International Film Festival
2024 Winner Best Documentary Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

Chalachitra International Film Awards
2024 Winner Festival Award Best Documentary (Narrative) Jacky Comforty

Zeal International Film Festival
2024 Winner Best Documentary Film Best Documentary Film Jacky Comforty

The Dreamers Film Festival
2024 Winner Best Educational Film Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best International Documentary Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Silverlens Film Awards
2024 Winner Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 Think Different Film Festival Winner Best Director (Documentary Feature) Jacky Comforty
2024 Think Different Film Festival Winner Best Social Film Jacky Comforty

2024 SWEDISH CRITICS' CHOICE AWARDS Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty
2024 SWEDISH CRITICS' CHOICE AWARDS Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty
2024 SWEDISH CRITICS' CHOICE AWARDS Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Luxembourg International Film Festival Winner Best Editing Jacky Comforty

2024 The Dark Side of the Cinema Film Fest Winner Best International Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 Sun dance in Paris Film Awards Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty
2024 Sun dance in Paris Film Awards Winner Best Human Rights Film Jacky Comforty
2024 Sun dance in Paris Film Awards Winner Best Social Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 Japan Film Critics Awards Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty
2024 Japan Film Critics Awards Winner Best Social Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 Maverick International Film Festival Best Original Director Jacky Comforty
2024 Maverick International Film Festival Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Maverick International Film Festival Best Original Editing Jacky Comforty

2024 Gabriel García Márquez Prize Winner Best Educational Film Jacky Comforty

2024 Gabriel García Márquez Prize Winner Best Human Rights Project Jacky Comforty

2024 Gabriel García Márquez Prize Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Indie Filmmaker Hall of Fame Awards Winner Best Indie Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Indie Filmmaker Hall of Fame Awards Winner Best Human Rights Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 Fantasy Festival in Santiago de Chile Winner Best Documentary Short Jacky Comforty

2024 Fantasy Festival in Santiago de Chile Winner Best Camera Operator Jacky Comforty

2024 Telluride New Stories Film Festival Winner Best Documentary Feature 2024

2024 Telluride New Stories Film Festival Winner Best International Producer

2024 Wild Filmmaker Awards in Toronto Winner Best Production Company Comforty Media Concepts

2024 Wild Filmmaker Awards in Toronto Winner Best Editing Jacky Comforty

2024 Wild Filmmaker Awards in Toronto Winner Best International Documentary

2024 Wild Filmmaker Awards Winner Best Cinematic Project of the Year Jacky Comforty

2024 Wild Filmmaker Awards Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Wild Filmmaker Awards Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty

2024 Hollywood Hype International Film Festival Winner Best Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 City Of God Film Festival Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 City Of God Film Festival Winner Best Director Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 City Of God Film Festival Winner Best Producer Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Diario Italiano Film Festival Winner Best Producer Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Diario Italiano Film Festival Winner Best Director Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Diario Italiano Film Festival Winner Best Original Editing Jacky Comforty

2024 Diario Italiano Film Festival Winner Best Production Company Jacky Comforty

2024 Venice International Film Festival Special Edition Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty

2024 Venice International Film Festival Special Edition Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 San Francisco Film Lab Awards Winner Best Artist Jacky Comforty

2024 Shanghai Indie International Film Festival Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Shanghai Indie International Film Festival Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Spain CinemART Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Atlanta International Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best International Human Rights Film Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Camera Operator Jacky Comforty

European Film Critics Awards

2024 Winner Best Director (Documentary) Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Editing Award Jacky Comforty

Chicago International Film Festival Best Indie Selection

2024 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Iceberg Cinema & Literature Awards

2024 Winner "Iceberg Theory Award" Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Australian Film Critics Awards

2024 Winner Best International Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Poland International Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Original Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Arthouse Producer Jacky Comforty

San Francisco Film Lab Awards

2024 Winner Best Human Rights Documentary Feature

Washington, DC International Film Awards

2024 "Best International Author of the Year"

Wild Filmmakers Awards Special Indie Event

"MIA International Audiovisual Market"

2024 Winner Best International Documentary Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Original Cinematography Jacky Comforty

British Film Critics Awards

2024 Winner Best Production Company Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best International Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Original Editing Jacky Comforty

Lisbon Story Film Festival

2024 Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Cinematography Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Original Editing Jacky Comforty

Wild Filmmaker Awards American Film Market in Las Vegas Best Arthouse Documentary
2024 Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Berkeley International Film Festival
2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Cinematography Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Camera Operator

Italian Grand Prix
2024 Winner Best Production Company Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Original Indie Filmmaker Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Editing Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Los Angeles Arthouse Film Critic Awards
2024 Winner Best International Director Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Documentary Cinematographer Jacky Comforty

Irish Film Critics Awards
2024 Winner Best Social Documentary Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best International Documentary Director Jacky Comforty

Global Visionaries Film Festival
2024 Certificate of Achievement "Best Documentary Film" Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Screenwriter of the Year "Best Original Screenwriter" Jacky Comforty

Mastroianni 100 Film Awards
2024 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Original Editing Jacky Comforty

SoHo-New York Co-Production Film Festival
2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Original Story Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Cinematographer Jacky Comforty

Silverlens Films and Awards
2024 Season 6 Winner Best Documentary Film Jacky Comforty

Charlie Chaplin Young Filmmaker Award
2024 Winner Best Arthouse Producer Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Editing Jacky Comforty
2024 Winner Best Indie Documentary Feature
2024 Winner Best Filmmaker Jacky Comforty

Greek Film Critic Award

2024 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Human Rights Film of the Year Jacky Comforty

Festival de Cine Antigua

2024 Honorable Mention Award Jacky Comforty

Hawai'i Film Awards

2024 Winner Best Director Documentary Category Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Original Story Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Camera Operator Jacky Comfprty

2024 Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature of the Year

TriBeCa Christmas Film Award

2024 Winner Best Indie Filmmaker Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Arthouse Documentary Feature

Hollywood Indie Film Critics Awards

2024 Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Indie Director Jacky Comforty

2024 Winner Best Arthouse Editor Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

AEFF American European Film Festival

2025 Winner Best Human Rights Film Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Arthouse Camera Operator Jacky Comforty

Oxford Film Network Awards

2025 Winner Best Human Rights Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Cinematography Documentary Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Arthouse Director Jacky Comforty

NEON on Contemporary Cinema Wild Filmmakers Guide

2025 Winner Best Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

Indie Golden Globe International Documentary Feature

2025 Winner Best Original Documentary Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Camera Operator Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty

Oklahoma New Directors/New Films

2025 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Production Company Jacky Comforty

Wild Filmmaker Awards: Independent Special Event at Sundance

2025 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty

2025 Winner Best Editing Jacky Comforty

Shakespeare Film Awards in Verona
2025 Winner Best Director Jacky Comforty
2025 Winner Best Social Film Jacky Comforty

Wild Filmmaker Special Event: 75th Berlin International Film Festival
2025 Winner Best International Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty
2025 Winner Best Editing Jacky Comforty

Wild Filmmakers Special Event 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam
2025 Winner Best Original Documentary Feature Jacky Comforty
2025 Winner Best Producer Jacky Comforty
2025 Winner Best Director or International Indie Documentary Film Jacky Comforty

AWARD BALKAN JAZZ